

GULLIVER'S TRAVELS

Supplementary Reader -1



Class VII
(English Medium)

Gulliver's Travels
English Supplementary Reader - I
Class VII
(English Medium)

Jonathan Swift

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THE GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
HYDERABAD

Untouchability is a sin
Untouchability is inhuman

Untouchability is a crime
Untouchability is irrational

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PREFACE

Gulliver's Travels, written by the eighteenth century English author, Jonathan Swift, is known all over the world. In fact, the book became popular as soon as it was published in 1726 and continued to draw readers.

Jonathan Swift, who lived from 1667 to 1745, was a priest and a politician besides being an author. Although the book *Gulliver's Travels* is liked by children today for its exciting and amusing stories of travel and adventure, Swift did not write the book as a mere story for children. He wrote it as a satire on the actions of some of the political personalities of his time and to make fun of the state of affairs in England then. However one does not have to know the political history of eighteenth century England to read and enjoy *Gulliver's Travels*. The stories of the tiny Lilliputians and the enormous Brobdingnagians are by themselves immensely interesting. The words 'Lilliput' and 'Lilliputians' have been accepted as words in the English language.

It is hoped that students will find this abridged and simplified version of *Gulliver's Travels* interesting and enjoyable.

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OUR NATIONAL ANTHEM

Jana gana mana adhinayaka jaya he
 Bharatha bhagya-vidhata
 Punjab Sindhu Gujarata Maratha
 Dravida Utkala Banga,
 Vindhya Himachala Jamuna Ganga
 Uchchala jaladhi taranga,
 Tava shubha name jage
 Tava shubha asisha mange
 Gae tava jaya gatha,
 Jana gana mangala-dayaka jaya he,
 Bharatha bhagya-vidhata,
 Jaya he, jaya he, jaya he,
 Jaya jaya jaya jaya he.

— O —

PLEDGE

“India is my country, all Indians are my brothers and sisters.

I love my country, and I am proud of its rich and varied heritage.
 I shall always strive to be worthy of it.

I shall give my parents, teachers and all elders respect, and treat
 everyone with courtesy.

To my country and my people, I pledge my devotion. In their
 well-being and prosperity alone lies my happiness.”

— O —

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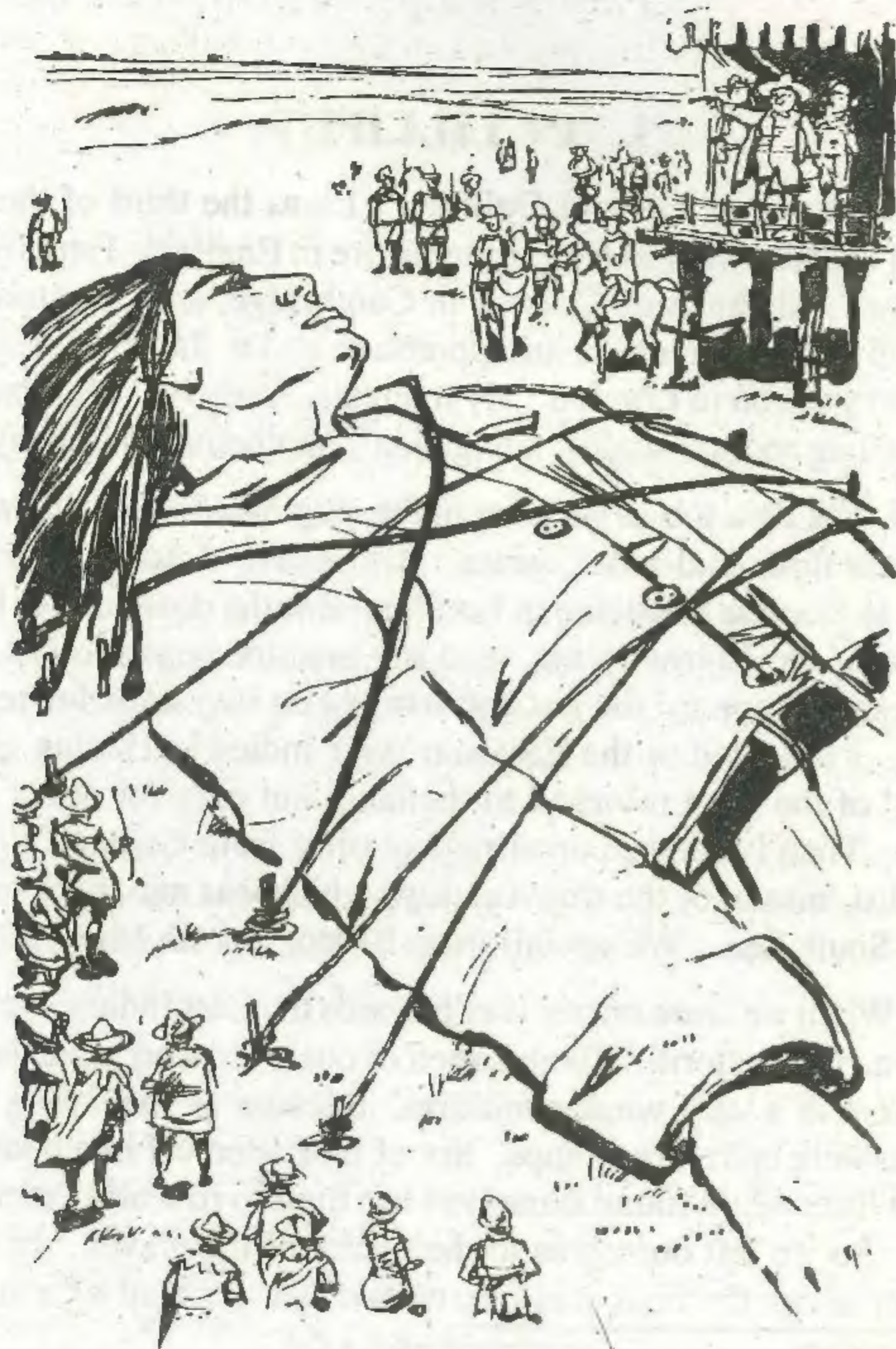
1. IN LILLIPUT

My name is Lemuel Gulliver. I was the third of the five sons of a land-owner in Nottinghamshire in England. I studied for three years at Emanuel College in Cambridge, and later took up the study of medicine as an apprentice to Dr. James Bates, an eminent surgeon in London. My interests, however, were mainly in travelling and so I studied navigation¹, mathematics and physics.

I took up a job as surgeon in the ship *Swallow* and travelled for about three-and-a-half years. On return, I got married and began to practise medicine in London. But the death of Dr. Bates came as a cruel blow to me, and my practice began to fail. So once again I took to² the sea and worked on two ships for several years. I travelled to the East and West Indies.³ Having grown weary⁴ of the sea I returned to the land, but only for about three years. Then I received an attractive offer from Captain William Prichard, master of the ship *Antelope* which was making a voyage to the South Sea. We set sail from Bristol⁵ on 4th May 1699.

When we were on our way towards the East Indies, we were hit by a violent storm. Twelve men of our crew were dead and the rest were in a very weak condition. Because of the strong wind we too were split into groups. Six of us started off in a boat, but after a little while found ourselves too tired to row and steer⁶ the boat. So we left ourselves to the mercy of the waves; in about half an hour, the boat was overturned⁷ on account of a sudden

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. navigation | : | the science of sailing a ship |
| 2. take to | : | adopt as a hobby or a means of livelihood |
| 3. East and West Indies | : | East Indies is the group of islands constituting Malaysia and Indonesia. West Indies islands lie between the coasts of Florida and Venezuela. |
| 4. weary | : | tired |
| 5. Bristol | : | a port city in England |
| 6. steer | : | direct the course of a boat, ship, etc. |
| 7. overturn | : | turn upside down |



wind. I do not know what happened to the other men, but I swam blindly on with all my strength. When I was very weak and was unable to move any farther, I found that my feet touched ground. I walked through shallow waters and finally reached land.

The time must have been about eight in the evening. Not knowing what country I had landed in, I walked for about a kilometre, but could see no sign of any house or inhabitants. Too tired to walk any further, I lay down on the soft grass and immediately fell asleep.

I must have slept very soundly for about nine hours; when I woke up it was already day. I tried to get up, but was unable to do so as my arms and feet were strongly fastened to the ground on either side. My hair, which was long and thick, was also tied down in the same manner. Several thin pieces of string passed across my body tying me to the ground. I was unable even to turn my head, and as I was lying on my back I could only look at the sky. All around me I could hear voices, but could see nothing.

In a little while I began to feel something moving up my left leg. It moved on to my chest and came very near my chin. I thought it must be some insect. Straining my eyes, I looked at it. You can imagine my surprise when I found that it was a tiny human being, less than 15 cm tall.

I could feel that at least forty more of them were walking after him on my body. I cried out loudly in my astonishment and the men ran away in fear. Several of them were injured while jumping on to the ground from my body. But very soon they returned in larger numbers.

All this happened while I was lying in great discomfort. After a lot of effort I was able to break the strings that tied my left hand to the ground. I could also loosen some of the strings that kept my hair tied down. But before I could lift my hand and catch some of the little men, they ran away. Soon they began to shoot arrows at my free hand. At least a hundred of them hit me and pricked me like needles. They also shot arrows into the air which fell on my body. Fortunately I could cover my face with my left hand. But this experience taught me that it was prudent⁸ to lie still, at least for the time being.

⁸ prudent : acting only after careful thought

The shower of arrows soon stopped. I could hear here a lot of noise on my right as if people were at work. This went on for over an hour. With an effort I turned my head that way and saw that they had put up a platform about 15 cm high on which three or four of them could easily stand. They also built some ladders so that they could climb on to the platform. Soon a dignified-looking⁹ man, attended by two or three others, climbed up and made a long speech of which I understood nothing. Before his speech began, on his command some men had come and cut loose the strings that had tied the hair on the right side of my head to the ground. This enabled me to turn my head right and see what was happening on the platform.

I was extremely hungry and thirsty and by putting my finger in my mouth I signalled to the man that I wanted food. This he understood and soon gave orders to his men. A number of ladders were placed on the sides of my body and men carrying baskets of meat began to climb on to my body. Their baskets were so small that I could swallow several basketfuls at one gulp. They, however, seemed to have anticipated this, for they had brought a large quantity of food. This, I learned later, was done on the orders of the King who had heard about the appearance of a 'man - mountain' in his kingdom. After satisfying my hunger I made a sign for water. They brought wine in barrels, which of course were no larger than nuts. They were amazed at the quantity of food and wine that I consumed and began to dance with excitement¹⁰ on my chest.

Often I was tempted to catch forty or fifty of them in my hand and throw them down. But I resisted the temptation as they had fed me well and had started treating me with kindness.

A little later there appeared a man of great dignity, obviously¹¹ a representative of the King. He got up on my body, took out some papers showing his authority and held them close to my eyes. Then he spoke to me. Though I could not follow the

9. dignified-looking : appearing to be honourable
10. excitement : strong feeling
11. obviously : clearly ; plainly

language, from the words he repeated and the gestures¹², he made I understood that the land was called 'Lilliput' and that he was planning to take me away to capital city which was a little away. I tried to convey to him through signs my desire for liberty. But, in a resolute¹³ manner, he made it plain that it was impossible. He, however, assured me of safety, decent treatment and enough of good food and drink. But of what use is good food and drink if one were to remain a prisoner for ever? So I made an attempt to free myself, but this only resulted in a shower¹⁴ of arrows. Realising that any attempt to escape was useless at the moment, I lay still. Then some of the men applied a kind of ointment on my arms and my body which soon relieved me of the pain caused by the arrows. This made me happy and comfortable and so once again I feel asleep. I slept for about eight hours. This was no wonder because, as I learnt later, they had mixed sleeping powder in the wine they had given me.

It seems the King, who had ordered that I should be tied to the ground with strings and that large quantities of food be prepared for me, had also asked his men to prepare a carriage to take me to the capital. Immediately, five hundred carpenters had started the work. They prepared a frame of wood, 2.1 metres long and 1.2 metres wide raised 8 cm. above the ground, and moving on twenty-two wheels. This was brought near where I lay, but their great problem was how to raise me and place me on the carriage. This was done by nine hundred of their strongest men, using a number of poles, ropes and pulleys. Fifteen hundred of the King's largest horses, each about eleven cm. high, were employed to draw the carriage towards the capital which was about a kilometre away.

While this operation was going on, I lay deep in sleep. It was about four hours after we started on our journey that I woke up, and that too by a curious accident. The carriage was stopped for some minor repairs when two or three of the natives, very curious to see how I looked climbed on it. One of them walked

12. gestures : movement of hand or head to indicate an idea
13. resolute : determined
14. shower : continuous flow

upto my face and pushed his spear deep into my left nostril. I sneezed violently and the men ran away in fear. This was what woke me up. The journey continued for the rest of the day and they rested at night. There were five hundred guards on each side of me, half of them with torches and the other half with bows and arrows, ready to shoot at me if I made the slightest movement.

By noon the next day we reached the city gates. The King and members of the court came to meet us, but his guards would not allow His Majesty to come anywhere near me for fear of danger to his person.

They had prepared a home for me. It was an old temple, no longer used for worship. It had very thick walls and a huge gate which was about 1.2 metre tall and about half a metre wide. I could easily crawl in through this. There were two windows on either side. Through the window on the left, they passed ninety-one chains which were locked to my left leg with thirty-six padlocks. After thus making sure that I was securely tied up they cut the strings that bound me to the carriage. I was then able to stand on my legs after several days.

The King and the others watched me from a 1.5 metres high tower which stood at a distance of about 6 metres from the temple gate.

Comprehension Questions

1. What subjects did Lemuel Gulliver study? How did his education help him in his future?
2. What made Gulliver go back to the sea after getting married and starting practice as a doctor?
3. How did Gulliver happen to go to Lilliput?
4. How did the people of Lilliput make sure that Gulliver did not move?
5. What strange sight did Gulliver see when he woke up on the island of Lilliput?
6. How did the Lilliputians feed Gulliver?
7. How was Gulliver taken to the capital city of Lilliput?

2. ROYAL GAMES

Standing outside the temple house, I looked around. I liked the beauty of the surroundings. The place was full of flowers, gardens and trees. The tallest of the trees were about 2.1 metres high. There lay at my feet Mildendo the capital city of Lilliput, like a painted scene in a theatre.

By now the King, having got down from the tower, advanced towards me on his horse. Frightened by my enormous¹ figure, the royal horse stood upon its hind legs; but, His Majesty held his seat with dignity. Soon his men rushed forward and held the horse when the King jumped down. He inspected me with considerable interest; of course, always keeping himself out of my reach. On a signal from him, his cooks pushed forward several carts filled with food and drinks, which I soon consumed in full.

The King was a man with a tall, well-built body and majestic appearance. About twenty-eight years old, he stood almost one cm. taller than all his courtiers. Naturally his very appearance created a respectful fear among his subjects. He held his sword drawn in his hand to defend himself in case I attacked him. The sword was almost eight cm. long.

The Queen, the princes and the princesses, attended by several persons, had also come out to have a close look at me. Several priests and lawyers were also present.

The King talked to me for some time and I spoke to the gathering in all the languages I knew. But we could not understand

1. enormous : very large



each other. When this attempt at communication² failed, the King and the courtiers went back, leaving me with a strong guard.

Soon some of the wicked men among the crowd shot arrows at me. Enraged³ at this, the Colonel of the guard caught six of them, bound and pushed them towards me with a spear. I took them in my hand and put five of them in my pocket. Keeping the sixth man in my hand, I showed gestures as though I meant to eat him. Then I took out my pen-knife, and this time even the Colonel looked worried. But I cut the strings with which the man was bound and put him gently on the ground. The other five also I treated similarly much to the relief of everyone present. This act of kindness made a good impression upon them.

I spent a fortnight in this prison house. During this period, on the orders of the King, the Lilliputians made me a bed using six hundred of their ordinary beds. They also prepared shoes and blankets for me.

The news of my appearance having spread all over the country, thousands of people came every day from the villages to see the 'man-mountain.' Soon the King issued orders that visitors should pay a licence fee to come within fifty metres of me. This brought⁴ substantial income to the state treasury. The King also ordered that each village should, in turn, send enough meat and drinks every day to feed me. Six hundred men were allotted to work as my servants. They stayed in tents on either side of the door of my prison house. On the orders of the King, three hundred tailors made a suit for me to wear in the fashion of the land.

Six of the King's great scholars were engaged to teach me their language. As soon as I picked up enough words, I appealed to His Majesty to give me my freedom. This request I repeated every day kneeling before the King. He replied that this would

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- 2. communication : talking to make them understand my feelings
 - 3. enraged : angered
 - 4. substantial : of considerable amount

take time. He will have to take a decision after consulting his courtiers. In any case, my final release depended on the goodwill⁵ I created by my generosity and good behaviour. First of all he wanted two of his officers to search me completely to make sure that I did not carry any secret weapon. Obviously this could be done only if I offered to cooperate in the search. I immediately agreed. When the officers approached me, I took them and put them in my coat pocket. After a while, I put them in my other pockets as well. These officers, who had brought with them a pen, ink and paper, made a detailed list of all the things I carried. The list included my two pistols, a sword, a watch, a purse containing gold coins, a comb, a handkerchief and several other such items. The King asked me to take out all these items. After inspecting them, he ordered that the pistols, sword and the purse be carried to His Majesty's stores. He returned the other things to me because they were considered harmless.

Through my gentleness and good behaviour, I gradually gained the sympathy of the people. As time passed they became less and less afraid of me. Sometimes I would lie down and let a few of them dance on my palm. Sometimes little boys would play hide and seek in my hair.

One day the King arranged some of his country's special shows for my entertainment. In these the Lilliputians were certainly better than the men of the other countries I had known. One of the most entertaining of these was the rope dance performed with excellence on a string about half a meter long, at a height of about 30 cm.

These rope tricks were generally done by candidates hoping to get high government jobs. The candidates were not always men of noble birth or high learning. Whenever a government post fell vacant, some of these men, well trained in these tricks,

5. goodwill : kindly feeling to a person

would apply to the King who would arrange a competition. The man who performed the maximum number of tricks without slipping and falling even once was usually selected for the job. Often these competitions resulted in serious accidents some of them causing death to the performers.

Sometimes the ministers including the Chief Minister would be asked by the King to perform these tricks. Accidents are more in such cases as the ministers go to extreme lengths to impress upon His Majesty that they have not lost their abilities. I am told that among the ministers there is none who has not had at least two or three falls.

Another such event which was held only for the entertainment of the King and the Queen was even more interesting. This was usually held in his chambers. The King would hold a stick horizontally above the ground. The ministers who were asked to perform the tricks would jump over it or creep under it, forwards and backwards according to the position in which the stick was held by His Majesty. The man who did these tricks with the maximum agility⁶ and ease was awarded a blue thread the second best performer a red thread and so on. The winners wore these threads around their waists. There were none among the courtiers who did not have such threads around their waists.

One day, news was brought to the King that a huge object had been spotted at the place where I was first found on the island. After very close inspection for several days the local people had concluded that this was no living being as it did not move. Upon His Majesty's command, this object was brought to the capital with the help of five horses. It was my hat and it had arrived without much damage.

In order to satisfy one of the fancies of the King, one day I stood erect with both my legs as far apart as I could manage.

6. agility : quick movement

Then the General led his entire army through the space between my legs. The men of the army marched twentyfour persons abreast and the horses sixteen abreast. This great march, with colours flying and spears held aloft, was accompanied by drum beating. It was a grand show for the Lilliputians.

Even as these things were going on, I had been making petition after petition to the King to grant me my liberty. This was discussed first in the Cabinet and then in the full Council. Finally it was decided to set me at liberty after making me swear to follow the detailed instructions of good conduct prepared by one of the ministers.

These conditions said that the man-mountain should not leave Lilliput or enter the capital city without the King's permission, should not injure any of the people or their animals by stepping over them, and should defend Lilliput against any attack by the enemies. The King, on his part, agreed to provide me every day with a quantity of food which was enough for 1,728 Lilliputians.

On my swearing to obey these conditions, the chains that bound me were cut off and I was set at liberty. His Majesty the King himself had come to see the ceremony of setting me free.

Comprehension Questions

1. What did the capital of Lilliput look like to Gulliver when he got up on his feet?
2. Describe the King of Lilliput.
3. How did Gulliver treat the wicked men who shot arrows at him?
4. How did Gulliver's presence increase the revenues to the state treasury of Lilliput?
5. How did the King's officers search Gulliver?
6. How did the King of Lilliput select his officers?
7. Describe a game which the ministers of Lilliput played for the entertainment of the royal couple.
8. How did Gulliver get his hat back?
9. What were the conditions on which Gulliver was granted freedom?

3. WAR WITH BLEFUSCU

As soon as I got my freedom I requested the King to allow me to go round the capital city of Mildendo. His Majesty very generously granted me permission on condition that I did not cause any injury or damage to the people and their houses. The King issued strict orders that during my visit all the inhabitants of the city should remain indoors.

The city which was a 150 metre square was surrounded by a wall about 75 cm. high and about 28 cm. broad. I stepped over the great western gate and walked along the two great streets taking great care not to step over anyone who might have come out on the street in spite of the King's orders. The entire population of the city was present at the windows or on top of their houses to have a look at the man-mountain.

The two great streets, which passed through the centre of the city dividing it into four equal squares, were 1.5 metre wide each. There were, of course, a large number of smaller roads and bylanes, but I could not enter them as they were only 30 - 45 cm. broad. The houses were of three to five storeys and there were well-laid markets and shops. The city had a total population of five hundred thousand.

The King's palace was at the centre of the city where the two great streets met. It was surrounded by a 60 cm. high wall at a distance of about 6 m. from the buildings.

There were several courts in the complex. The royal family lived in the innermost one. It was a splendid palace. On the orders of His Majesty, the doors and windows were kept open at the time of my visit. Lying on the ground surrounding the palace, I had a full view of these great buildings. The Queen, who was seated at her lodgings, smiled at me graciously¹.

1. graciously : in a pleasing manner; kindly



One morning, about a fortnight after I got my liberty, the Principal Secretary, Reldresal, came to meet me. He said he wanted to talk to me on some matter of great importance. I offered to lie

down so that he could reach my ears conveniently. But he preferred to let me hold him in my hand during our conversation.

He began by expressing his joy for my freedom. He, however, said that I would not have got it so soon but for the fact that the country was facing great dangers from two sources, one internal and the other external.

The Principal Secretary continued as follows : " Internally, the people of the empire of Lilliput are divided into two factions called the High-Heels and the Low-Heels. They are so called on the basis of the height of the heels of their shoes. Though the High-Heels outnumbered the Low-Heels, the King is on the side of the Low-Heels. All the offices in his court are occupied by the Low-Heels. But the prince, who is heir apparent² to the throne, is known to have some sympathy for the High-Heels. In fact, one of his heels is higher than the other which has given him a slight limp.

" In the midst of this internal quarrel, Lilliput is facing the threat of invasion from the island of Blefuscu, the other great empire of this universe. Although you have told us that there are kingdoms in this universe which are inhabited by humans as big as you, our philosophers do not believe that. We think that you must have dropped down from the moon or one of the stars. This belief is based on two reasons. Firstly, if there are a hundred human beings of your size in this world, all the animals and fruits of the world will be finished within a few days. Secondly, our history of six thousand moons does not mention any kingdom other than Lilliput and Blefuscu.

" The empires of Lilliput and Blefuscu have been engaged in war with each other for the past thirtysix moons. It all began as follows. As everyone knows, the ancient custom was to break the egg at the larger end before eating it. But the present King's grandfather, when he was a boy, happened to hurt one of his fingers while trying to break an egg. Thereupon, the King, his father, issued an order that all his subjects should break their eggs only at

² 2. heir apparent : one who, by law, is heir to the title of his father

the smaller end. This order was not liked by many of the citizens. Our history tells us that there have been six rebellions³ over this issue. One King lost his life and another lost his crown in these rebellions. The rulers of Blefuscu have been supporting these rebellions. Whenever a rebellion is crushed⁴, the defeated men run away to the island of Blefuscu where they are given protection.

"Our history says that at least eleven thousand persons have been killed as they refused to break their eggs at the smaller end. A large number of books have been written on this subject, but the books of the Big-End supporters have been banned. Of course, our holy book says that men may break their eggs at whichever end they find convenient. But this issue has started a war between Lilliput and Blefuscu which has been going on for the past thirtysix moons. Both sides have suffered damage in the form of ships, boats and men. Now it is learnt that our enemies have once again collected a large fleet⁵ of vessels and are preparing to attack us. Naturally His Majesty hopes that you will come to our help."

I told the Principal Secretary that while I did not want to interfere in any internal quarrels of the empire, I would certainly protect His Majesty and his empire from any attack by outsiders.

Comprehension Questions

1. Briefly describe the city of Mildendo.
2. Why did the Principal Secretary go and meet Gulliver?
3. What was the internal problem in Lilliput?
4. What did the philosophers of Lilliput think about Gulliver? What was the reason for their belief?
5. How did the quarrel between Lilliput and Blefuscu start?
6. What did Gulliver promise the Principal Secretary?

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|--------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 3. rebellion | : | revolt; opposition to authority |
| 4. crush | : | break; subdue |
| 5. fleet | : | a navy; a number of ships in company |

4. THE KING'S DISPLEASURE

The island of Blefuscu lay to the north-northeast of Lilliput. The two islands were separated by a channel about 700 m. wide. I learnt that the channel was about 1.5 m. deep.

Hiding behind a hillock¹ and using my looking glass, I studied the naval fleet of Blefuscu. The entire fleet was ready to set sail. It consisted of fifty warships and a large number of other vessels. After studying them closely I finalised my plans of attack.

Using the authority given to me by the King, I ordered the men to prepare a large number of iron bars about the size of our knitting needles and also a great quantity of thread. I put three strands of thread together to make it strong. Similarly, I put three of the iron bars together and bent their ends into a hook. In this way, I made fifty hooks and tied the threads to them.

Leaving my coat, shoes and stockings on the shore, and taking the hooks and threads with me, I walked into the sea. I reached the Blefuscu fleet in less than half an hour. The soldiers of Blefuscu were so frightened on seeing me that they jumped out of the ships and swam ashore. I saw that there were not less than thirty thousand persons on the shore. I connected a hook to each of the ships and tied together the ends of all threads. Then with my knife I cut the cables that had tied the ships to their anchors².

While I was doing this, the men on the shore were raining arrows on me. They caused great pain to me and, what is more, delayed my work considerably. Fortunately, I had with me a pair of glasses which had escaped the notice of the search party sent by the King of Lilliput. With these I could protect my eyes.

- | | | |
|------------|---|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. hillock | : | small hill |
| 2. anchor | : | heavy weight suspended from a ship to keep it stationary. |



Having done my work, I walked back dragging behind me fifty of the enemy's largest ships. The Blefuscudians, who watched the whole action with great surprise, let out a fierce scream of anger and despire when they saw that was happening to their ships. When I was out of reach of their arrows, I stopped for a while, took out the arrows from all over my body and applied the ointment which the Lilliputians had given me on the day of my arrival there. After that, I continued my journey and arrived safely at the port of Lilliput with all the enemy ships.

The King and the whole court was present on the shore to receive me. The King showered words of praise on me and honoured me with the title of *Nardac*, the highest honour of the land.

His Majesty, however, wanted me to drag to Lilliput all the rest of the naval vessels of Blefuscu and reduce that country into a province of his. He also wanted to make the Big-Endians his slaves and compel them to break their eggs at the smaller end. But I advised him against such an attempt as I did not like the idea of reducing a brave set of people to mere slaves. The King did not like my words. From that moment he began to hate me. With the help of some of his ministers who sided with him, he began to plot against me. Because of this one refusal of mine, he forgot all the help I had rendered him earlier.

About three weeks after this, a peace mission arrived from Blefuscu. They concluded a treaty of peace with the King of Lilliput on terms which were very advantageous to Lilliput. The members of the mission also met me and invited me to their kingdom. I readily accepted the invitation. Later I sought the permission of His Majesty the king of Lilliput to make a visit to Blefuscu. The permission was granted, but the King's attitude to me was very cold. Later I learnt that he had not liked my meeting the people of Blefuscu. He probably took the meeting to be a sign of my lack of total loyalty to him.

Before long, one night I was awakened by the shouts and cries of a large number of people who were banging on my door. When I got up and asked them what the matter was, I was told that the palace was on fire and that I should rush there to help put the fire out. The fire was caused by the negligence of a maid. I went there as fast as I could taking care not to step on anyone. The crowd which had assembled there helped me by bringing water in their buckets. But the pond was a little away from the palace and their buckets were only as large as thimbles. The fire was raging and the water they brought was not enough to put it out. Suddenly I had an idea. The previous evening I had drunk a large quantity of wine and I had not discharged it after wards. This I effectively used and the fire was soon put out. In this way I could save most of the palace from destruction. But I was not sure how the King would like the method I employed. It certainly was against the rules.

The King later sent me a message that I would be pardoned for my offence. But I never received this pardon. The Queen, who was shocked at my behaviour insisted that the part of the palace damaged in the fire should never be repaired for her use. She also vowed before her confidants³ that she would take revenge on me for the grave offence I had committed.

Comprehension Questions

1. What tools did Gulliver make to deal with the warships of Blefuscu ?
2. How did Gulliver spoil Blefuscu's preparations for war against Lilliput?
3. How did the Blefuscudians try to save their ships ? What did Gulliver do to escape from their attack ?
4. Why did the King of Lilliput turn against Gulliver ?
5. Why did Lilliput and Blefuscu sign a peace treaty ?
6. How did Gulliver save the palace from destruction ? Was it the right thing to do ?

3. confidants : trusted persons ; close friends

5. ESCAPE FROM LILLIPUT

One night an important officer of the court, whom I had helped on an earlier occasion, came secretly to my house. He wanted to talk to me in confidence. After making sure that we were alone he told me that several of the senior officers of the court had been plotting against me and that they had brought forth a proposal to impeach¹ me on a charge of high treason² and put me to death. Their idea was to set fire to my house at night while twenty thousand soldiers would stand around the house ready to shoot poisoned arrows in case I tried to escape. The Admiral and the Treasurer were the two persons who insisted on putting me to death.

The Principal Secretary, however, argued that death was too severe a punishment for a person who had saved the country from enemies. He suggested that instead of being killed, I should be blinded. There were a lot of arguments on this. Finally a compromise was reached. According to this, I was to be blinded soon. Then I would be slowly starved to death by gradually reducing the quantity of food allowed to me. His Majesty also agreed to this proposal. It was also resolved that the decision to put out my eyes should be recorded, but the decision to starve me to death should be kept a secret. In three days' time the decision was to be made known to me. Then, under the supervision of twenty surgeons poisoned arrows would be shot into my eyes. His Majesty expected me to submit my self to this 'mild punishment.'

After having given me this information, the officer left as secretly as he had come.

I thought over the problem for long. I knew that with my might I could easily destroy the whole of the kingdom of Lilliput. But this I did not want to do. The only alternative³ was to go to

1. impeach : to find fault with ; to accuse publicly
2. treason : betraying of the government
3. alternative : one of two possibilities (other than the one mentioned)



the kingdom of Blefuscu. So I sent a note to the Principal Secretary saying that I was leaving for Blefuscu on a holiday as I had already got the permission to do so from the King of Lilliput. Without waiting for a reply I went to the port where the ships lay, selected one of the warships, put my clothes in it and swam across to Blefuscu dragging the ship behind me.

On arrival at the port of Blefuscu, the people received me well and sent two guides to lead me to the capital city. I held them in my hands and walked towards the capital. Stopping outside the city gates, I sent the two men in to inform the King about my arrival. Soon the King, the Queen and the courtiers came out to receive me. They showed no signs of any fear at seeing me. I lay down on the ground and kissed the palms of the royal couple. I told the King that I had come with the permission of the King of Lilliput to visit his country as promised and to pay my respects to a brave man like him. Of course, I did not tell him a word about the punishment that was soon to be awarded to me in Lilliput.

The foremost thought in my mind had always been to escape from these islands and go back to my own country. But, for that I needed a boat or a ship.

Three days after my arrival in Blefuscu, I happened to notice something that resembled a boat 300 metres out in the sea. Leaving my shoes and coat on the shore, I swam towards it and was glad to find that it was really an overturned boat. As it was impossible for me to row it ashore all by myself, I swam back and requested the King to lend me the services of twenty of his ships and three thousand seamen. With these vessels and men I once again went out into the sea to the boat. This time, with the men and the vessels to help me, I could pull the boat near the shore. When we were in shallow waters, near the shore, with a great effort we were able to turn the boat on its bottom. I was glad to find that it was in good condition.

Then I took the boat to the royal port of Blefuscu where a huge crowd had assembled to have a look at a vessel of such enormous size. With the help of His Majesty's men, I was able to carry out the necessary repairs to the boat. I told the King that using this boat I would be able to sail to some place from where I could find a ship to my home country.

Meanwhile, the King of Lilliput, who had at first believed that I had gone away only for a few days, began to grow suspicious

over my long absence. So he sent an envoy⁴ to Blefuscu to inform the King of the charges against me and the punishment that was to be awarded to me. The envoy told the King of Blefuscu that the King of Lilliput wanted him to send me back immediately with my hands and feet bound by ropes. If this was not done, the relations between the two great empires would naturally become worse, the envoy said.

The King of Blefuscu discussed this matter with his courtiers. Then he sent the envoy back with many excuses. He said that as his brother the King of Lilliput knew, it was impossible to bind the man-mountain hand and foot and send him back. In any case, the man-mountain had, by mere chance, found a huge vessel on which he planned to sail soon for his native land. Thus both Lilliput and Blefuscu would be saved from the danger of keeping this huge man.

The King of Blefuscu himself told me about these events. Then he secretly assured me that if I wanted to stay on in Blefuscu he would grant me full protection. But by then I had decided not to trust any of the Kings or princes. So I humbly told him that I did not want to be the reason for spoiling the relations between two neighbouring empires. So I should be permitted to leave the kingdom in the boat.

In about a month's time, with the help of the ship-carpenters of Blefuscu, I got the boat fitted with the necessary sails, masts and oars. Then I went to take leave of His Majesty. The King and others came out of the palace to bid me goodbye. I lay on my face and kissed the hands of the King, the Queen and the princes. His Majesty presented me with fifty purses of two hundred gold coins each. He also gave me a full-length portrait of himself.

I filled my boat with the dead bodies of a hundred oxen and three hundred sheep, besides a good quantity of bread and wine. I also carried all the food that four hundred of their cooks could

prepare in one day. I took a number of cows, bulls and sheep and enough fodder for them to eat. My idea was to take them to England and breed them there.

Finally I set sail from Blefuscu port on the 24th of September 1701. After sailing for two days, I was lucky to find a ship at a distance. They too saw me and slowed down. Imagine my surprise when I discovered that it was an English ship going back home after a visit to Japan. I boarded the ship and was happy to find that among the men was an old friend of mine. I told him of all the adventures I had had, but he thought that I had gone mad. I had to show him the gold coins of Lilliput and Blefuscu as also the cows and sheep I was carrying in my pockets. Then he began to listen to my stories with amazement. Our long journey to England was generally pleasant except for the fact that one of the sheep I was carrying was eaten away by the mice in the ship.

At last I arrived on the shores of England on the 13th of April 1702. My family had believed that I was dead. So they were very happy to see me back again. I made a good deal of money exhibiting the tiny cattle I had brought with me. With the money I could have comfortably lived with my family, but the desire to travel and see new places was too strong for me to resist.

Comprehension Questions

1. How did Gulliver come to know of the plots against him?
2. What was the charge against Gulliver? How was he to be punished?
3. How did Gulliver manage to escape punishment in Lilliput?
4. Describe the manner in which the King of Blefuscu received Gulliver?
5. How did Gulliver find a boat?
6. What message did the King of Lilliput send to the King of Blefuscu? What reply did the King of Blefuscu give?
7. How did Gulliver prepare the boat for his journey?
8. What things did Gulliver take with him on his boat?
9. How did Gulliver reach England after setting off from Blefuscu?
10. How did Gulliver convince the people that his stories about Lilliput were true?

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4. envoy : a messenger sent of foreign government

6. BACK TO THE SEA

Being a man of action, I could not settle down to a quiet life in London. So within a couple of months of my return from Lilliput, I set off again in a ship called *Adventure*, bound for Surat in India. The captain was Mr. John Nicholas, a very experienced sailor. We set off on the 20th of June 1702 and had a smooth sailing for several months. We went past the Cape of Good Hope¹ and the Straits of Madagascar². Then, on the 19th of April 1703, the wind became fierce. It changed the direction of the ship several times. Soon a storm followed. When the storm ended, our strong ship was still in good shape, but our drinking water was almost finished. It became evident that unless we found fresh water soon, we would die of thirst on the high seas.

Though even the seniormost sailor on board had no idea where exactly we were, we continued to sail hoping to see land. Then on the 16th of June 1703, a boy on the top mast³ shouted that he could see land. By the next day land was more clearly visible. We had no idea whether it was an island or a continent. As the ship could not go very near the land, it was anchored at a little distance. Then a dozen of our men, fully armed, set off in a boat with vessels to bring back water. With the captain's permission, I too joined the men.

When we reached land, we saw no signs of a spring or lake. Our men wandered on the shore looking for some source of water. Alone, I walked in the opposite direction where I found the soil dry and rocky. Tired and thirsty, I began to walk back to the place where our boat lay. To my great surprise, I saw my companions jumping into the boat and rowing off as fast as they could towards the ship. I attempted to shout to them, but my sound died in my

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|--------------------------|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Cape of Good Hope | : | famous headland south of Cape Town in South Africa |
| 2. Straits of Madagascar | : | narrow sea between Mozambique in Africa and the island of Madagascar |
| 3. top mast | : | top of the long pole of timber or iron set up on a ship to support sails |



throat as I saw the reason for their fear. A huge creature was walking in the sea trying to capture them. He was so huge that the sea

water came only upto his knees. However, he could not advance fast and capture the boat as the sea there was full of sharp, pointed rocks. I did not wait to see the fate of my friends. Scared of the sight, I ran back as fast as I could and climbed on the top of a hill from where I could have a better view of the land around. It seemed fully cultivated. But what surprised me beyond everything was the size of the grass that grew there ; it was more than 6 m. high.

I went on to what seemed to me to be a highway which, I later learnt, was a narrow footpath for the local inhabitants. I walked along this road, but could see very little as the corn on either side, which was ripe for harvest, was at least 12m. high. After walking for an hour I reached the end of the field, but it was fenced with a hedge about 36m. high. The trees were so tall that I could not see the top of them. There were steps for climbing over the hedge, but as each step was 2 m. high, I could not climb them. I was trying to find a hole through which I could cross the fence when I saw a giant coming towards me from the next field. He was of the same size as the one who chased my friends in the sea. He was as tall as a church and covered about ten metres in one step. Immediately I hid myself among the corn.

Soon he was on the top of the steps from where he shouted something in the direction of the next field. His voice was so deafening that at first I thought it was thunder. Then I saw seven other creatures, all as big as him, approach him. They were carrying reaping hooks, each the size of six scythes. From their dress and behaviour I concluded that they must be his servants and he must be the farmer. He shouted something to them and they began to reap the harvest in the field where I lay. I tried to run as far away from them as possible to escape their reaping hooks. But moving among these full-grown corns was no easy task. At last I came to a place where the corn had been felled by the wind and rain. Here it became absolutely impossible for me to move. The reapers were fast approaching the place where I lay.

Lying there with death staring in my face, I thought of my poor wife and children. I regretted my decision to start on a second voyage much against the advice of my friends and wellwishers. I could not help thinking of Lilliput where I was looked upon as a special creation of God. But here I was lying helplessly waiting for death at the hands of these giant-like men.

Suddenly I realised that one of the reapers was dangerously near me. By his next move, he was certain to crush me under his foot or to cut me in two with his reaping hook. So I shouted as loudly as I could. The man heard my voice and stopped reaping. He looked around to see from where that noise had come. After a while he spotted me and looked at me curiously as if I were a small dangerous animal. Then he took me between his thumb and forefinger and held me near his eyes at a distance of about three metres so that he could see me clearly. I was being held at a height of about 18 metres. I was terrified at the thought of falling from that height. However, I tried not to show my fear. I raised my eyes towards the sun and spoke to the big man a few words with my hands folded in front. Then I tried to make him understand by gestures that he was hurting me by the pressure of his thumb and finger on my sides. This he seemed to understand, for very soon he raised a part of his coat and put me there gently. Then he ran towards his master the farmer.

Comprehension Questions

1. How did Gulliver and the other sailors happen to go to Brobdingnag?
2. How did Gulliver get separated from the other sailors ?
3. What sights of Brobdingnag surprise Gulliver ?
4. Describe the field which Gulliver saw in Brobdingnag.
5. What was the danger that Gulliver faced in the cornfield ?
6. How was Gulliver caught by the reaper ?

7. AT THE FARMER'S HOUSE

The farmer examined me closely. He took a small piece of straw, about the size of our walking stick and lifted the ends of my coat with it. He blew off my hair from my face so as to get a better view. Then he called his other servants and asked them, as I learnt later, whether they had ever seen a creature as small as me. He then placed me softly on the ground on all fours, but I got up on my feet and walked a few steps to and fro to show them that I had no intention of running away. They all sat around me in a circle and observed my movements with great interest. I took off my hat and bowed to the farmer. Then I took out my purse and offered to him the gold coins I had. He held them close to his eyes and examined them carefully, but could not understand what they were. Finally he returned them to me and asked me by gestures to put them back in my purse and keep the purse in my pocket.

By now the farmer must have been convinced that I was a gentle civilised creature, for he began to talk to me. His sound was so loud that I often feared it would break my eardrum¹. I too tried to talk to him in the several languages I knew. He brought his ears within two metres of my mouth, but still we could not understand each other. Then he took out his handkerchief, folded it into two, spread it on his palm and placed his palm on the ground. He gestured to me to climb on, which I could do easily as the palm was only one foot high. I lay on the handkerchief which he warped around me. As I lay covered in his handkerchief, he carried me to his house and showed me to his wife. At first, she was afraid of me, as an English woman would be on seeing a mouse or a spider. But after watching me for some time she became more confident and slowly grew fond of me.

It was twelve O'clock then and soon the servants brought dinner. It was one large dish of meat in a plate about 7.2 m. in diameter. The family, consisting of the farmer, his wife, three children and a grandmother, sat around the table. The farmer placed me on top of the table, which was 9 m. high. I took great care not

1. eardrum

the hollow place at the middle of the ear



to go any where near the edge of the table for fear of falling down. The farmer's wife cut a tiny piece of the meat, broke a small crumb of bread and put them before me. I took out the fork and knife from my pocket and began to eat. They all watched the sight with great delight. On orders from the lady, the servants soon brought what to them was a tiny cup. With both hands I lifted the cup with great difficulty and bowing low to her ladyship. I drank to her health. I announced this in English in as loud a voice as I could produce which made them all laugh. The fierce sound of their combined laughter nearly made me deaf.

My master the farmer then called me to his side and I cautiously walked towards him. But in spite of my caution, I stumbled on a piece of bread and fell flat on my nose. But I was not hurt. Soon I got up and, noticing the concern on the faces of the persons around, waved my hat cheerfully to assure them that I was not injured at all. But while I was still walking towards the farmer, his youngest son, a ten-year-old boy sitting next to him, suddenly snatched me by the legs and held me so high that I began to tremble with fear. In an instant, my master took me from his son and at the same time gave him such a blow as would have felled a dozen soldiers of the English army. He asked the boy to leave the table immediately. But, fearing that the boy might take revenge on me later, I appealed to my master, by signs, to allow the boy to continue to sit there. This the master agreed to. I went to the boy and kissed his hand. My master made him stroke me gently with his hands.

During the dinner, my mistress's cat jumped on to her cap. On hearing a terrifying noise behind me, I looked back and saw that it was the purring² of this cat. It was about the size of three oxen. At first I was afraid it might attack me, although my mistress was holding it fast and I was at the other end of the table, about 15m. away from it. But the animal took little notice of me. When my master put me just about a metre or two from its face, it actually moved back showing that it was more afraid of me than I was of it. Later I met the farmer's dogs some of them the size of four elephants.

When dinner was almost over, the nurse brought a one-year-old baby to its mother, my mistress. As the baby saw me it began to shout in such a way that it could have been heard from one end of London to the other. It wanted me as a plaything. The mother put me beside the baby. Immediately, it caught me by my waist and put my head into its mouth. I roared so loudly that the child got frightened and dropped me. I would certainly have fallen on the ground and broken my neck had not the mistress caught me in her skirt. Then, in order to quieten the child, the nurse

2. purring : low, continuous sound of pleasure made by a cat.

began to shake a rattle which was a huge vessel filled with big stones and tied with a rope to its waist.

I thought that the people around me were really ugly. They had big holes in their skin and their hair was coarse like the bristles³ of a brush. But then I remembered that when I was in Lilliput the people there used to comment on how ugly-looking I was with coarse hair and ill-coloured skin having big holes in it. So probably these people were not really ugly, but appeared so because of their enormous size. When dinner was over, my master went out to his farm leaving instructions with his wife to take care of me. Seeing that I was tired and sleepy she put me on an enormous bed, about eight metres high. She covered me with a handkerchief which was larger and coarser than the sail of a ship. There I slept for about two hours. During my sleep I dreamt of my family. When I woke up I was sorry to find myself in a big room all alone.

As I was thus lying on the bed two rats crept up the curtains and began to smell all over the bed. They were as large as dogs, but much faster and fiercer. I hid under the handkerchief, but soon they discovered me and began to attack me, one from the front and the other from behind. I was in great danger. I soon stood up, drew my sword and killed the rat in front. The other ran away in fear, but not before I had inflicted a wound on him.

When I was walking up and down the bed my mistress entered the room. Seeing me with blood all over my body she came near and picked me up. I proudly pointed at the dead rat lying on the bed. She was greatly relieved to find that I was not hurt.

In this way I survived one more danger to my life.

Comprehension Questions

1. How did Gulliver show the farmer that he was a human being?
2. How did the farmer take Gulliver to his house?
3. Describe the dinner in the farmer's son treat Gulliver?
4. How did the farmer's son treat Gulliver?
5. Describe how Gulliver faced the cat and the dogs.
6. What happened when the baby was brought to the dinner table?
7. Describe Gulliver's adventure with the rats.

3. bristles : short, stiff hair

8. AN EXHIBIT

My master had a lovely nine-year-old daughter. She was an expert in needle-work. With the help of her mother she prepared the baby's cradle so that I could use it as my bed. The cradle was put in a small drawer and the drawer was kept in a hanging shelf so that rats did not attack me. The girl stitched seven shirts and some other clothes for me out of the finest material available there.

Gradually as I learnt their language and was able to suggest things, the comforts and conveniences of my bed were improved as I wanted.

The girl was just forty feet tall, a little too small for her age. She also acted as my tutor, teaching me the language of Brobdingnag as that country was called. Whenever I pointed at something she told me its name in their language so that in a few days' time I was able to ask for whatever I wanted. It was this girl who first called me *Grildrig*, which name got accepted very soon all over the country. The word meant 'little man.' I called her my *Glumdalclitch* or 'little nurse.' She was extremely good-natured and very kind towards me. She never parted from me as long as I was in the kingdom. I owe my safe existence in Brobdingnag to the care and love shown by the little nurse.

Soon word spread that my master the farmer had found in his farm a tiny creature resembling a human being in every respect, who walked on two legs and spoke several strange languages as also some words of their own language. One day another farmer, a neighbour and friend of my master, visited him to find out the truth about this rumour¹. I was brought before him and placed on a table. I walked up and down on the table, drew my sword and held it up, bowed to my master's guest, asked him in his language how he was, and told him he was most welcome, all on the

¹. rumour : general talk



instructions of my little nurse. This man, being old and near-sighted, had put on his glasses to have a better view of me. Looking at his face I could not help laughing as his eyes appeared like two full moons shining into a room through two windows. The other members of the family also joined in the laughter and this made the old man very angry.

The old man and my master began to talk in whispered tones often pointing their fingers at me. I knew that they were planning some mischief. The next morning my little nurse revealed it all to me as she had managed to over hear their conversation. The old neighbour had said that on the next market day I should be taken to the nearest town and put up on show there so that my master could collect money. *Glumdalclitch* was very much worried at this as she feared that the people might hurt me in some way or the other. For my part, frankly I was not as afraid as my little nurse was, for I had a strong feeling that some day I would get back my liberty. As for the shame of being carried about as an exhibit² for making money, I knew that it was unavoidable. Even the King of England could not have escaped such a fate in the circumstances in which I was.

As per their plan, on the next market day, my master took me with him to the nearest town. He was accompanied by my little nurse who carried me in a little box which had a small door for me to enter and come out. There were also small holes in it to let in air. My little nurse had taken care to put the baby's quilt in the box so that I could lie on it. But still I felt terribly shaken during the half hour journey as the horses jumped a distance of 12 m. in one leap. It was worse than being in a ship during a violent storm.

My master stopped at an inn and took me there. Then he sent out a man to announce in the streets that a strange tiny creature resembling a human being was on show at the inn. I was placed on a table in the largest room of the inn, which was about

2. exhibit : something on display

9 m. square. My little nurse stood on a stool close to the table to take care of me as well as to tell me what to do. My master permitted only thirty people to come into the room at a time. I walked about on the table, saluted the crowd and answered the questions put to me by my nurse. I drew my sword and brandished³ it in the air. I took a thimble full of liquor which *Glumdalclitch* had given me and drank to the health of the visitors. With these and similar other tricks I entertained the spectators. Twelve batches of curious people came to see me on that day and I repeated the trick for each batch. One naughty school boy threw a nut at my head which very narrowly missed me. Otherwise I would have been killed instantaneously. For this the young rogue⁴ was beaten up severely and sent out of the room.

At the end of the day my master announced that I would be brought to the town again on the next market day. Meanwhile he got ready a more comfortable vehicle for my journey. This was highly essential because by the time the show was over I was totally exhausted.⁵ It was three days before I could stand up again. But even at home I had no rest. People from within a distance of about 160 km., having heard about me, came to my master's house to see me. He charged them heavily and made me repeat the performance day after day, except on wednesday which was their day of rest. I soon got extremely tired of this show business. My health began to fail gradually.

By now my master had realised the great possibility of making more and more money using me. So he decided to take me to all the important towns of Brobdingnag. Having made the necessary preparations, he took leave of his wife and started on the long journey to the capital city which was in the middle of the kingdom. His daughter, my *Glumdalclitch*, sat behind him carrying me in a box tied to her waist. She had taken care to pad⁶

3. brandish : wave about
4. rogue : mischievous, ill-mannered person
5. exhausted : tired out
6. pad : furnish with soft material

all the sides of the box as well as its bottom with the softest linen available so that the long journey would not be very uncomfortable to me. Thus we set off on the 17th of August 1703, about two months after I had landed in Brobdingnag, on the 4800 km. trip to the capital city. We were accompanied by only one boy who rode behind us with the luggage.

My master exhibited me at every town and village within 160 km. on either side of our way and made huge profits. On an average, we covered only about 240 km. a day, as often my little nurse would complain that she was getting tired of the long journey. Actually she did this to save me from getting exhausted. During the ten weeks of our journey I was shown in eighteen large towns besides many villages and families.

On the 26th of October we reached the metropolis called, in their language, *Lorbrulgrud*, which meant Pride of the Universe. My master stayed on the principal street in the city. He sent out notices giving an exact description of my size and accomplishments. He arranged a big table in a room and made me perform there ten times every day to the great delight and satisfaction of the people. The show continued day after day and my greedy master collected a huge sum of money.

Comprehension Questions

1. Who was Gulliver's nurse and teacher? What was she called? what did she call Gulliver?
2. How did the nurse prepare a bed and clothes for Gulliver?
3. What made the farmer's old neighbour angry?
4. Why did the farmer decide to exhibit Gulliver?
5. What tricks did Gulliver perform at the exhibition?
6. What was the danger that Gulliver faced on the first day of the exhibition?
7. Why did the farmer decide to take Gulliver to all the important towns of Brobdingnag?
8. Describe Gulliver's journey to the capital of Brobdingnag.

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9. IN THE KING'S PRESENCE

As the show continued endlessly I began to grow weaker and weaker. The more money he got by exhibiting me, the greedier my master became. Seeing my extremely weak condition he concluded that I would not live for more than a month. So he decided to make as much money as possible before I died. But to my great fortune, at this time a messenger came from the Queen of Brobdingnag with a message that I should immediately be taken to the palace for her entertainment. Accordingly, I was taken to the presence of the Queen. I bent low to kiss her feet. But, preventing me, she extended her little finger to me which I held respectfully in both my arms and then put to my lips. She asked me several questions about the country of my origin, my travels and various experiences. I gave her a detailed description of all these. She seemed to be highly impressed with my narrative. The Queen asked me whether I was prepared to serve at her court. I told her that I was a slave of the farmer. But if she could buy me from him I would happily serve Her Majesty. She then asked my master whether he was prepared to sell me. The greedy farmer, who had concluded that I would, in any case, die within a month, readily agreed and asked for a price of one thousand gold coins. This was promptly paid. Thus I became a servant of the Queen. I requested that *Glumdalclitch*, the little nurse who was so fond of me and who had acted as my nurse and teacher, should be allowed to stay with me. On the request of the Queen the farmer agreed to this proposal. When the farmer finally took leave of me I just bowed to him and did not utter a word.

The Queen, who had noticed my coldness¹ towards my former master, later asked me the reason for it. I told her that the only favour for which I owed some gratitude to him was for not having killed a small creature found in his farm. And I had amply repaid him for this in the form of the money he had collected by showing me to half the kingdom and the price he finally got for

1. coldness : lack of friendliness



me. I explained to her how exhausted I was after the laborious² time I had with him. If he had not thought that I was very near my death, he would not have sold me so cheaply. However, I assured

² laborious strenuous; involving a lot of work

her that I ran no such danger. Already my spirits³ were up and under Her Majesty's protection I was sure to recover my health completely within a short period.

The Queen, who was impressed by my speech, took me to the King who was a highly learned man of serious nature. Seeing me lying face down on the palm of her hand, he took me to be an animal and asked her since when she had grown fond of small creatures. She then put me on a table nearby on my feet and I gave him a short description of my experiences. My little nurse, who was standing nearby, confirmed all that I said about what had happened to me since my arrival in the kingdom.

The King was one of the wisest men in his kingdom. Yet, even after having examined me closely, he believed that I was some machine made by some clever workmen of his country. But when he heard such a small creature talking so sensibly and intelligently he was immensely⁴ surprised. Still he refused to believe all that I had told him about the country of my origin and the way I arrived in Brobdingnag. He thought that it was a story made up by the little nurse and her father and taught to me to deliver so as to impress visitors. So he put several other questions to me and I answered all of them rationally⁵ and intelligently. Except for the slight imperfection in my language he could find nothing wrong with the replies I gave him.

His Majesty then sent for three of the wisest men of his kingdom. They all examined me thoroughly, but could not form an agreed opinion about me. They argued with each other, but could reach no conclusions. By examining my teeth they concluded that I was a meat eating animal, but this was an impossibility as there were no creatures small enough for me to eat. I could not be an undeveloped embryo⁶ as my limbs were fully developed. Neither could I be a dwarf as I was too small to be one. The Queen's favourite dwarf, the smallest known on the kingdom, was about 9m. tall. After a lot of discussion and argument they reported to the king that I must be one of nature's 'mistakes'.

3. spirits : liveliness; cheerful nature
 4. immensely : greatly; very much
 5. rationally : in a manner based on reason
 6. embryo : undeveloped baby (offspring before birth)

I thought it was time for me to give a small speech. I told the king that in my own country there were millions of people of my size. As the animals, trees and houses of that country matched my own size, living there was no problem for me. The wise men dismissed my words with a contemptuous smile. But the King who was wiser than them all sent them away and asked for my former master to be brought before him. He questioned the farmer for long and finally reached the conclusion that what I was saying could be true. So he asked the Queen to take good care of me. *Glumdalclitch* was asked to stay with me to take care of me. A governess⁷ was appointed to teach her, and several servants were provided to look after her. A special apartment⁸ in the palace was allotted for her use.

On the instructions of the Queen a special box was prepared which was to be my bedroom. It was about 5m. square and 1.7 m. high. It had a door, windows and two closets attached. This box, or rather my bedroom, was furnished with a cot, two tables and two chairs made of a material resembling ivory.

The floor, the ceiling and the sides of this box were padded with cushions to prevent any accident that might result from the carelessness of those carrying me. I wanted a lock for the door of this box. After several attempts the smith managed to make a lock small enough for the door. The Queen ordered that clothes be stitched for me of the finest silk available in the country. This was about the thickness of an English blanket, but in course of time I grew used to it.

The Queen was so fond of me that she never dined without me. I had a small table and chair placed on the table at which she ate. These were placed near her left elbow. *Glumdalclitch* stood near me on a stool on the floor to see that I was safe. I had a set of silver dishes entirely for my use. Compared with the dishes used by Her Majesty these looked like toys. Usually my little nurse carried them in a small silver box in her pocket. No one else dined with the Queen except the two princesses, one sixteen years old and the other thirteen.

⁷ governess
⁸ apartment

female teacher of children in private household
single room in a house

Her Majesty never ceased to wonder at the tiny morsels which I ate. Though she herself was no great eater, the quantity of food she ate really made me awestruck.¹⁰ What she took in one mouthful was enough dinner for a dozen Englishmen. The knives she used were much bigger than swords.

It was a custom that on Wednesdays the entire royal family dined together. I sat on my special table and chair near the left hand of the King. He asked me several questions about my own country and I gave him detailed descriptions of the customs, laws, forms of governments; wars and so on there. After listening to all that he said to his ministers that it was funny that such tiny creatures as I could have such grand ideas and build houses, forts and cities, make wars, love, hate, cheat and betray. I felt extremely uncomfortable at the contemptuous manner in which he spoke of the great kingdom of England, but kept quite as I was helpless under the circumstances.

Gradually I began to feel that there was nothing very insulting in what he said. When I got used to the size of the Brobdingnagians, I myself felt that after all I was a diminutive¹¹ creature. This became all the more evident when the Queen took me in her hand and sat before the mirror so that I could see the images of the two of us side by side. Slowly I developed a feeling that I was indeed smaller than I actually was.

Comprehension Questions

1. How was Gulliver saved from the misery of continuing as an exhibit?
2. What price did the Queen pay for Gulliver?
3. Why was Gulliver cold towards his master, the farmer?
4. What did the King think of Gulliver after listening to his story?
5. What opinion did the three wise men form about Gulliver?
6. What arrangements were made at the palace for the comfortable stay of Gulliver?
7. Where did Gulliver have his meals?
8. Why did Gulliver feel insulted at the words of the King? How did he overcome this feeling?

- | | | |
|----------------|---|------------------------------|
| 9. morsel | : | mouthful; small Piece |
| 10. awestruck | : | filled with fear and respect |
| 11. diminutive | : | very small |

10. ACCIDENTS AT THE COURT

What angered me most in the court was the presence of the dwarf. Though he himself was no more than thirty feet tall, he used to make fun of my size whenever he came across me. I took my revenge by calling him 'brother' and challenging him to a duel as if he were of the same size as me. One day at dinner he was particularly angered by some remark I made. Suddenly he lifted me up in the air and dropped me into a large silver bowl of cream. I fell head first into the cream and would have been in great danger if I had not been a good swimmer. At that moment my little nurse was at the other end of the room and the terrified Queen did not have the presence of mind to help me. *Glumdalclitch* ran swiftly to the table and lifted me out of the bowl. By then I had swallowed a good quantity of the cream. I was put to bed immediately. After a little rest I became all right again. The dwarf was beaten up and sent away from the palace.

The Queen often made fun of me because of my timidity. She would ask me whether the other men of my country were also as great cowards as I was. This teasing was the result of the following incident. The country of Brobdingnag was full of flies which were as big as the birds in England. They used to come in large numbers when we were having our meal. They would sit on the food, on my face and my hands. This irritated me greatly. What was worse, the dwarf would sometimes catch several of them in his hand and release them right under my nose in order to frighten me.

Soon, however, I was able to kill them with my knife and thus I was relieved of the trouble to some extent. My skill in killing them was very much admired by the Queen.

One morning when the weather was fine *Glumdalclitch* had set my box at a window so that I could have fresh air. I kept one of the windows of the box open and then sat at my table with the idea of eating a sweetcake. Suddenly about twenty wasps flew into the

box humming loudly. Some of them took away the cake while the others began to circle my head in order to attack me. With great courage I drew my sword and killed four of them while the others escaped. Immediately I shut my window. Upon examination later, I found that the stings of the dead wasps were about 3 cm long and were as sharp as needles. I carefully preserved them all.

I had occasion to travel through some parts of Brobdingnag when my little nurse took me out on short journeys. This gave me an idea of the geography of the kingdom. Brobdingnag is a peninsula¹ with thirty miles high mountain ranges on the northeast. These are impassable as there are volcanoes² on top of them. No one in Brobdingnag knew what lay beyond these mountains. There were also no seaports anywhere in the kingdom. So the country had no knowledge whatsoever of the world outside it. With fifty-one cities, a hundred walled towns and a large number of villages, Brobdingnag was well inhabited.

My life in Brobdingnag was generally pleasant but for the several accidents caused by my littleness. One of these happened before the dwarf had been sent out of the palace. One day *Glumdalclitch* had taken me out to the garden where there were a large number of apple trees. Seeing the dwarf also there I made some remark which angered him. When I was passing under an apple tree he shook it so forcefully that a number of apples fell down. These apples were the size of huge barrels. One of them hit me and I fell on my face. Luckily I did not suffer any severe injury from the fall.

On another occasion my little nurse had placed me on a patch of grass and had gone for a short walk with her governess. Suddenly there was a hailstorm.³ I fell down under the weight of the hailstones which were about eighteen hundred times as big as the ones in Europe. I was bed-ridden for ten days after this accident.

- | | | |
|--------------|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. peninsula | : | piece of land projecting far into the sea |
| 2. volcano | : | mountain with openings through which lava, water, gases, etc. are sent out often. |
| 3. hailstorm | : | shower of frozen rain |

Another accident also happened in the same garden. This time, too, my little nurse put me in a very secure place and then went to another part of the garden with her governess and some other ladies. Suddenly a white dog belonging to one of the gardeners appeared. Following the scent it came straight to me, took me in its mouth and ran back to its master the gardener. It placed me gently in front of him. Fortunately it was a well-trained dog and it took great care not to hurt me with its teeth while carrying me. The gardener who knew me so well took me back immediately to my nurse. She had by then returned to the place where she had left me and was greatly worried on not finding me there. The incident, however, was hushed up and never allowed to be known in the court for fear of arousing the anger of the Queen. I myself thought that it might lower my dignity if it was known that I was carried away by a dog.

One day a kite nearly carried me away. I barely managed to escape by attacking the bird with my sword. At another time, walking over a molehill,⁴ I fell neck deep into a hole. Another accident was when I tripped over a snail and fell down.

Her Majesty the Queen often used to ask me about my voyages. She wanted to know whether I could really sail a boat. I said that although my main job was that of a surgeon in the ship, I could sail a boat. But boats of the size which I could steer would not run in the rivers of Brobdingnag. On the orders of Her Majesty, her workmen made a boat which could carry about eight men of my own size. When it was ready the Queen was so delighted that she immediately took it to the King. She asked her men to make a wooden trough about 30 m. long. This was filled with water and I rowed the boat up and down in this trough. This was a good diversion for me and great entertainment for the Queen and the ladies. Sometimes I would just put up the sails and the ladies would create a wind using their fans. I had only to steer the boat at such times. When the ladies were tired the boys would create an artificial wind by blowing. When I stopped rowing, *Glumdalclitch* would take away the boat and hang it on a nail for drying.

4 molehill

small mound of earth thrown up by a mole (a small animal) while burrowing

Even such diversions were, however, not without any danger. Once a frog happened to enter the trough unnoticed by anybody. As soon as my boat was put out it jumped on it and it greatly annoyed me. This huge, ugly creature jumped over my head several times. But I gave it such a thrashing⁵ with the oar that it soon jumped away.



Perhaps the worst of these accidents was the one involving a monkey. One day my little nurse had gone somewhere after locking

5 thrashing

beating

me up in her closet. As the weather was warm, the windows and the door of the box were kept open. I was relaxing on a chair when suddenly a huge monkey entered my room, or rather my box. I tried to escape from it by moving from one corner to the other. But it soon grabbed me and held me close to its chest with one of its forearms. On hearing some noise, it jumped out of the box. Still holding me tenderly in its arm the monkey climbed on to the roof of a building and sat there.

Glumdalclitch, who had returned by then, raised a hue and cry⁶ and soon half the palace was out to see what was happening. Meanwhile the monkey stroked my body like a nurse and still holding me with one hand tried to feed me some things which it had. This nearly choked me and I had to struggle hard not to swallow what the monkey was pushing into my mouth. Several of the men watching from below could not contain their laughter at this spectacle. Meanwhile ladders were brought and some men climbed on to the roof to rescue me. Seeing this the monkey left me on the roof and escaped. When the men brought me down I was in a pitiable condition half coked with all the things that the monkey had thrust into my mouth. My little nurse carefully removed them with a needle, but still I was confined to bed for a whole fortnight. The King and the Queen visited me several times during my illness. The monkey was killed and orders were issued that no such animal should be kept anywhere near the palace.

Such accidents occurred frequently mainly because of my littleness. These, I am afraid, reduced my dignity and status to a considerable extent.

Comprehension Questions

1. Why did Gulliver hate the dwarf?
2. Describe Gulliver's experience with the wasps that attacked him.
3. Describe briefly the geography of Brobdingnag.
4. How did apples and hailstones fall on Gulliver? Do you blame the dwarf for this?
5. Describe how Gulliver was carried away by a dog.
6. How did Gulliver entertain the Queen with his sailing skill.
7. Narrate the accident involving the monkey.

6. hue and cry : wild cry raised for capture of wrong doer
— O —

11. TALKS WITH THE KING

The King, who was a great lover of music, often used to have concerts in the palace to which I was also taken. But I could not enjoy the music as the sound was deafening. All the sound that could be produced by an entire English army playing all their trumpets and other instruments simultaneously right into your ear could not equal this sound. I began to sit in my box with all the doors and windows closed and the curtains drawn. Then I found that the music was rather pleasant.

There was a piano-like musical instrument on which *Glumdalclitch* often played. I wanted to entertain the royal couple by playing on this. But the instrument was too huge for me. It had a length of about sixty feet and each key was nearly a foot wide. With both my arms extended I could not reach beyond five keys. I got two wooden sticks made with one end larger than the other. The larger end was covered with a piece of mouse skin. A bench was put in front of the keys about four feet below it. By running up and down on this bench and beating the keys with the two sticks I was able to play some tunes. But this was a very tiresome exercise as I had to run great distances in order to play even one tune.

The King was a man of great learning. Often he used to order that I should be brought before him and put on top of a table so that I could reach his ear. Then he would ask me about my country, our king, and the form of government in my country and so on. In reply I gave him detailed descriptions of the nature of our kingdom, the composition of our parliament, the religion of the land, the courts of justice, and even the sports and games. At the end of my long speeches spread over several days, he used to question me on a number of things. He could not understand, for example, why we



should keep a large army to maintain peace. If we were governed by the rules which we ourselves made, why should there be so many law courts where people spent a lot of time and money? To His Majesty, our history appeared to be one of mutual hatred, greed and betrayal. Much to my discomfort I had to swallow¹ all these insulting remarks about my great nation.

¹ swallow (here) put up with

I, however, lost no opportunity to impress upon him the advances we had made in several fields. For example, I told him about the invention of gunpowder which had greatly increased man's ability to destroy his enemies. By using cannons² and gunpowder whole cities could be destroyed and their entire population wiped out in a matter of hours. I offered that as a token of gratitude I could assist his men in making some guns and the necessary gunpowder so that His Majesty's army could conquer whole cities in no time. The King was horrified at the idea. He expressed great surprise that such a tiny creature as I could think of destroying fellow human beings. He would rather lose half his kingdom than have any such weapon. He ordered me never again to mention this weapon and its uses to anyone.

In Brobdingnag, the administration was run on the simple principle of common-sense. There were no secrets and no great disputes. Decisions were taken without any delay. There was a rule that no law in the country should exceed twenty-two words so that they always remained simple. It was a crime to write interpretations of laws. There were few law courts and fewer cases. The education of the people was limited to morality, poetry and mathematics.

The Brobdingnagians knew the art of printing, but their literature consisted of very few books. Even the King's library, which was considered the largest in the country, did not contain more than a thousand volumes. I was allowed to borrow books from this library. The books were about eighteen to twenty feet broad and twenty five feet high. The Queen's workmen had made a kind of ladder using which I could read the books. The book was kept open against one wall of the room and the ladder would be kept at a convenient distance. First I would climb to the top

² cannon : very heavy gun

rung of the ladder and, walking from one end to the other, read the top line of the book. Then I would go back and read the second line. When I had finished what could be read from the top I would descend to the next lower rung and continue my reading. In this way I could read most of the important books in the library.

The army of Brobdingnag consisted of 1,76,000 soldiers and 32,000 horses. The army was made up of farmers, traders and other common citizens. They were commanded by the noble men of the land.

I had often seen the army of Lorbrulgrid, the capital city, doing their exercises in a great field nearby. There must have been about 25,000 footmen, and about 6,000 horsemen. A man mounted on a horse was about ninety feet high. It was a great sight when all the mounted soldiers raised their huge swords in the air upon a command. It looked like several thousand lightnings flashing across the sky from various directions.

Comprehension Questions

1. Did Gulliver enjoy the music in Brobdingnag? Why?
2. How did Gulliver play the piano in Brobdingnag?
3. How did the King react when Gulliver offered to help him make gunpowder? What do you think of the King for this?
4. What were the principles on which Brobdingnag was ruled?
5. How did Gulliver read the books in Brobdingnag?
6. Describe the army of Brobdingnag.

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12. A CHANCE ESCAPE

I spent two years in the kingdom of Brobdingnag. The King and the Queen were very fond of me and treated me very well. But I did not like the idea of living in a place where I was nothing more than a curious sight. I could not walk freely for fear of being trampled upon. I always had hopes of regaining my freedom and joining my family. Then one day the King and the Queen went on a trip to the southern part of the kingdom. I was also taken along, of course under the care of my little nurse. The royal couple decided to spend a few days in a city about eighteen miles away from the sea. By the time we reached the city both *Glumdalclitch* and myself were tired and ill as a result of the journey.

I was only suffering from a cold, but my little nurse was very ill and bed-ridden. I sought the permission of the King and the Queen to go to the seashore and have fresh air so that my health would improve. This was readily agreed to. I always had secret hopes of escaping from Brobdingnag and I knew that an escape was possible only through the sea. *Glumdalclitch* was unusually reluctant to part with me, but finally entrusted the box in which I lived to a boy to be carried to the seashore. She gave him strict instructions to be very careful with me and shed a lot of tears at the time of parting.

The boy took me to the seashore and put my box down there. I soon fell into a deep sleep. Thinking that I was quite safe the boy must have moved away somewhere. I woke up suddenly when I felt that the box was being violently shaken. My box was being carried up and up. I looked out of the window, but could see only the blue sky all around. Then I heard the clap of wings and realised what had happened. An eagle had got the ring above my box in its beak and was flying away with the box. Its plan must have been to take the box to some convenient spot and then eat me.

I was in the air for some time and then, all of a sudden, I began to lose height. The box fell so rapidly down that I almost lost my breath. It had evidently fallen out of the eagle's beak.



Then with a loud noise the box went under water. After a while it began to rise though slowly. Then it came to a rest on the surface of the water and I realised that the box was floating on the surface of the sea. I opened a hole on the roof of the box so that I could get enough air to breathe.

Fear gripped me. Any moment my box might hit against something and break. And any break in any of the glass panels meant sure death for me. Even in this terrifying situation I could not help pitying my little nurse. How sad she would be, I thought, when she came to realise that I had disappeared. She would invite the anger of the Queen and her future would be ruined.

I floated like this for about four hours when I began to feel that my box was being pulled or towed to one side. I was not sure whether I was imagining things. Anyway I decided to try my luck. Standing on top of the chair and putting my mouth as close to the hole above as possible I began to shout at the top of my voice. Then I put out a handkerchief through the hole using a stick I had with me and began to wave it. My hope was that if any boat or ship was nearby the people in it might realise that there was an unfortunate creature in the box.

There was no immediate response to my efforts, but I felt that my box was continuously being pulled in one direction. After an hour the box hit something hard. At first I thought it was a rock, but then I heard human voices above me. So again I put out my handkerchief and waved and also shouted at the top of my voice. Then I heard clear English words. Someone was asking whether there was anyone inside the box. So I told him that I was an unfortunate sailor who needed to be rescued. He replied that I didn't need fear as my box was fastened to their ship. After a while the ship's carpenter came and sawed a four foot square hole on the roof of the box and then lowered a ladder through it. I climbed up the ladder and was soon taken into the ship in a very weak condition.

I was soon surrounded by sailors who looked like pigmies¹ to me. Having been used to the giants of Brobdingnag for so long, I could not believe that there were so many men of my own size in this world. The sailors put a thousand questions to me, but I was in no mood to answer them. The good captain, noticing that I needed rest, put me to bed in his own cabin and I was soon fast asleep.

Comprehension Questions

1. Describe the circumstances in which Gulliver reached the seashore.
2. What helped Gulliver to escape from Brobdingnag?
3. Why was Gulliver afraid when his box fell into the sea?
4. How did Gulliver send signals to the sailors?
5. How was Gulliver rescued from the box?
6. Describe the feelings of Gulliver when he saw the sailors on the ship.

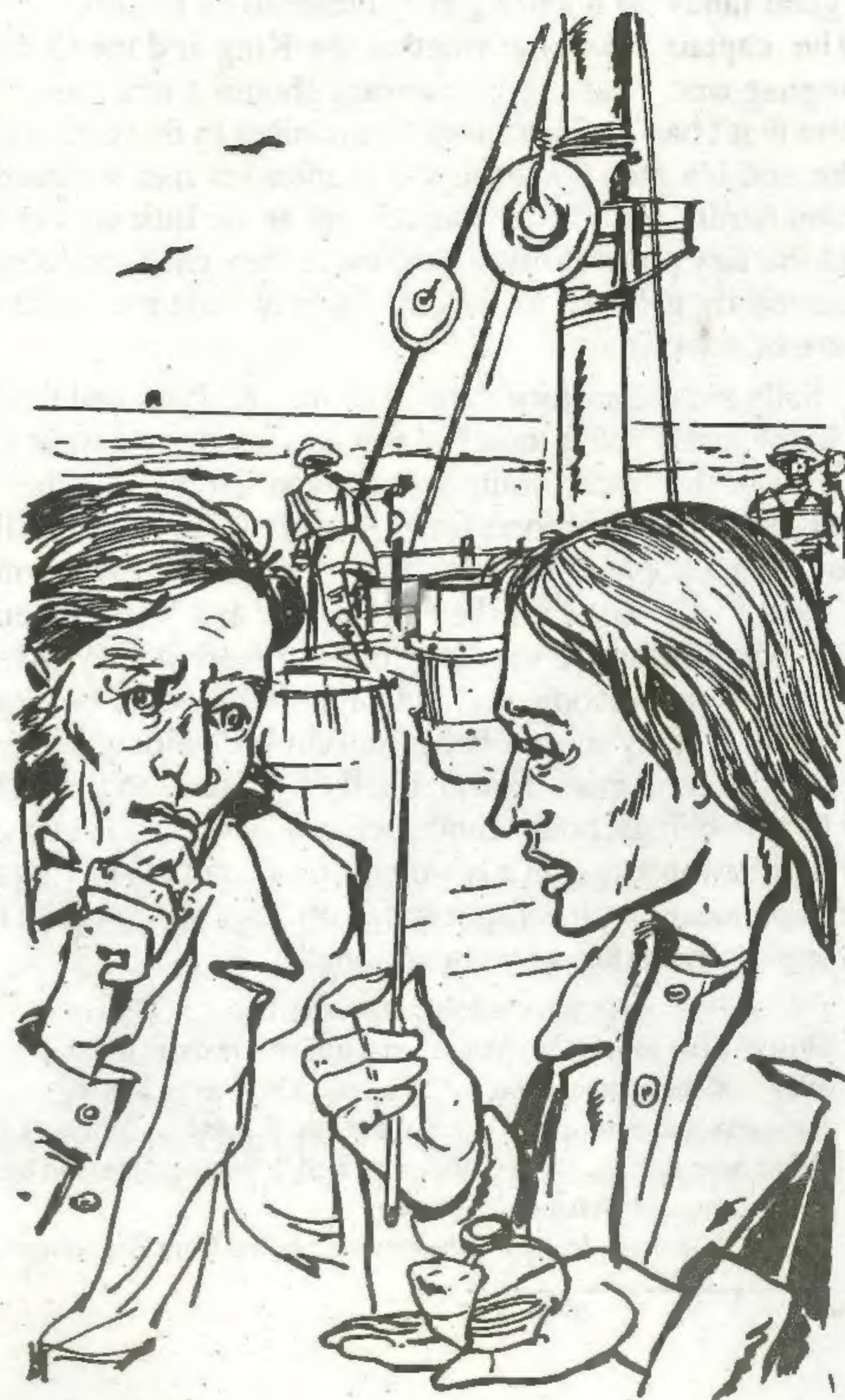
1. pigmies dwarf people

13. BACK HOME ONCE AGAIN

I slept for some hours and when I woke up, the captain ordered supper. After the meal he engaged me in conversation. He told me how he had sighted my box while looking out through his glass. Taking it to be a ship he decided to approach it as his own ship was running short of food. Then he realised that it was not a ship and so sent some men in a boat to go near the object and find out what it was. They returned and told him in a horrified tone that they had seen a swimming house. He laughed at this and then himself set out in the boat. He came near the box, circled it several times and then ordered his men to tow it along to the ship. When it reached the ship his men lifted the box up slowly using wire and pulleys. Then he realised that some unfortunate man was inside and so asked the carpenter to saw a hole in the box. In the end the captain asked me whether I had been punished in this way for some horrible crime I had committed in some country. However, he promised that he would keep his word and put me on land at the first port where they called¹.

I requested the captain to listen to me patiently. Then I told him my story from the day I started from England to the time he took me on board the ship. After a while he began to be convinced of the truthfulness of what I was saying. In proof of my story I placed before him the few relics² which I had collected from Brobdingnag. These included four wasp's stings, a collection of needles and pins and a ring which the Queen had once presented to me taking it off her little finger and throwing it over my head as a collar. I requested the captain to accept the ring as a token of my gratitude, but he stoutly refused. All that he accepted from me was a tooth that had been extracted from the mouth of a servant of my little nurse. I had got it cleaned and put it in my cabinet. It

1. call : visit for a short period
2. relics : interesting objects kept in memory of past association



was about a foot long and four inches in diameter. The captain took a great fancy³ to it and I gladly presented it to him.

The captain asked me whether the King and the Queen of Brobdingnag were deaf as I was always shouting in a loud voice. I told him that I had got so used to loud voices in that country that when he and his men spoke to me it sounded like whispers. I could also hardly contain my amazement at the littleness of their size and the tiny plates, knives, and forks they used for eating. I could not easily get used to little things and little men, although they were of my own size.

Finally after about nine months of voyage, I reached England on the 3rd of June 1706. I took leave of the captain and went to my house. Even on the streets I could not help wondering at the smallness of the people around. For some time I thought I was back in Lilliput and shouted at people to get out of my way as otherwise I might trample them. Finally I reached my house and when a servant opened the door I stooped very low to get through it. My wife and children came to welcome me, but I felt they had all become so small. Because of my strange behaviour my wife thought for some time that I had gone mad. But gradually I got used to the sight of normal human beings, houses and streets. My wife, however, said that I should no longer go on any voyage for fear of my having such strange experiences as in Lilliput and Brobdingnag. But did I obey her? I leave the readers to wonder about it.

Comprehension Questions

1. How did the captain happen to tow Gulliver's box to his ship?
2. What did the captain think when he saw Gulliver in a box?
3. How was the captain convinced of the truthfulness of Gulliver's story?
4. What were the relics that Gulliver carried? What articles did he offer to the captain? What did he accept?
5. How did Gulliver feel when he returned home from Brobdingnag?

3. fohey

great liking

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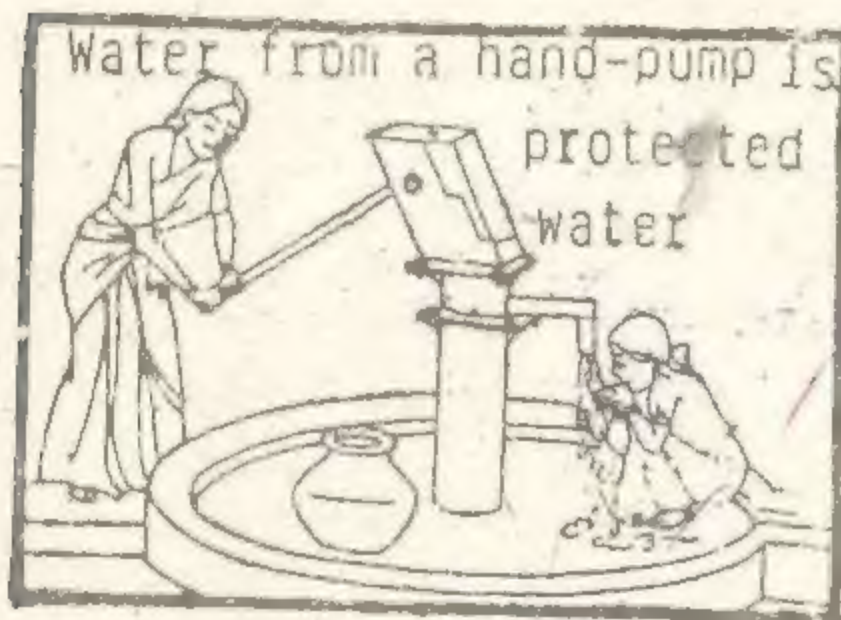
For your family's welfare



Educate your daughter



For Good eye sight
eat leafy vegetables



Water from a hand-pump is
protected
water

Get your babies
inoculated
save them from
diseases



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